



Human Services Department

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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*CITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ALLOCATING FUNDS TO ASSIST
HURRICANE EVACUEES*

Fremont, CA – September 20, 2005 – At its regularly scheduled Council Meeting on September 20, the Fremont City Council will consider allocating \$40,000 to assist Hurricane Katrina evacuees who have landed in Fremont. To date, several displaced families—totaling more than 40 individuals—have contacted the Fremont Family Resource Center seeking assistance.

“In a disaster of this magnitude, the effects are felt throughout the country,” said City Manager Fred Diaz. “This is a way for the City of Fremont to help individuals and families who have chosen to come here to get back on their feet.”

If approved by the Council, the City will use unallocated federal Community Development Block Grant funds to help displaced families find housing and purchase food, clothing and other necessities. Normally, the City would be limited in its ability to use federal funds for these purposes, but the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has lifted restrictions on the use of block grant funds in order to encourage local governments around the nation to aid hurricane victims. Ironically, the President and Congress are proposing to significantly cut the block grant program in the 2006 federal budget.

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The City is also encouraging local landlords, businesses, and individuals to join the effort to assist evacuees. Housing is the biggest expense and an immediate need for all evacuees. Landlords who have apartments or houses available at discounted rates for evacuees should contact May Lee of the City's Office of Housing and Redevelopment at (510) 494-4506.

Donors of food and household items should contact Tri-City Volunteers at (510) 793-4583. Due to the number of evacuee families with infants, donations of diapers and formula are especially welcome.

The City is accepting cash donations that will be used to purchase necessities for local evacuees. Checks should be made out to City of Fremont/Katrina Fund and mailed to the City of Fremont Human Services Department, P.O. Box 5006, Fremont, CA 94537-5006, attention Shanti Jeyakumar.

Individuals and families who have been displaced by the hurricane and are seeking assistance should contact Claudia Andrade at the Fremont Family Resource Center at 39155 Liberty Street in Fremont or call (510) 574-2133.

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